

SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS ANNOUNCES FINAL CASINO AMENITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Plan Designed to Provide \$200 Million in Economic Stimulus to the City of San Bernardino

San Manuel Tribal Nation, Calif. – July 16, 2003 – Final plans for the San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino amenity enhancement project were announced today at an employee meeting. Tribal leadership and casino management addressed approximately 2,000 employees about the project, one that will provide more than \$200 million in economic stimulus over the next two years to San Bernardino counties by establishing new vendor relationships, construction and architectural partnerships, and job growth. This project brings these and other much-needed resources to the area, as well as tourism dollars.

The tribe will be moving forward with the “Casino On-Reservation Relocation Alternative” plan, outlined in the tribe’s final Environmental Study as one of many alternatives determined through ongoing meetings with the City and review of public comments. As stated by City of San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles in a letter sent to the tribe dated July 10, 2003, “Of the alternatives identified in the Final Environmental Study, the “Casino On-Reservation Relocation Alternative” seems to have the fewest negative impacts on the surrounding community; this alternative moves the parking structure out of the neighbors’ back yards thereby reducing visual, noise, glare and other potential impacts.” Feedback and input like this from the Mayor was an integral factor in the tribe’s final decision-making process.

The tribe and casino management felt it necessary to inform the most vital part of the organization of its plans prior to a public announcement. The primary purpose of the enhancement project is to improve the work environment for its employees and also to provide new amenities for patrons based on their specific requests to create a more comfortable and enjoyable entertainment experience. The tribe also pursued this project to improve pedestrian safety; improve pedestrian and vehicular access to the reservation including the existing bingo and casino facilities; enhance and integrate critical parking facilities for tribal land uses; enhance casino facilities including restaurant facilities and gaming areas for use by patrons; and provide a meeting area for tribal and community events.

The announcement follows an extensive government-to-government process between the City of San Bernardino and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians whereby the tribe, in good faith, worked in conjunction with the City to arrive at a solution that mutually met the needs of the city, neighbors and tribal members.

“Our tribe and the City of San Bernardino have worked together for many months throughout this process, and we are pleased to have identified a mutually agreeable alternative,” said Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. “Our neighboring community is important to us, and we will continue to do the right thing by working with the City to review how best to mitigate any perceived impacts or resulting concerns surrounding this alternative plan.”

The project will expand upon the positive economic impacts to the City and County of San Bernardino. Approximately half of the customer expenditures at San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino are made by residents from counties outside San Bernardino; this means the tribe’s

gaming operation is bringing substantial tourism dollars into the immediate area. More importantly, 83 percent of the tribe's total payroll is paid to San Bernardino county residents, and the new project is expected to increase the size of that payroll, bringing greater economic stimulus to the area.

The casino amenity enhancement project will solidify San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino as one of the leading entertainment destinations in Southern California. The anticipated completion of this project is 2006.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

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